



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
RIVERINE SQUADRON ONE  
2340 AMPHIBIOUS DRIVE SUITE 125  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23459-2841

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5700  
Ser N1/078  
7 Aug 10

From: Commanding Officer, Riverine Squadron ONE  
To: Director, Naval Historical Center (Attn: Operational Archives) 805 Kidder Breese SE, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5059

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2009

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H, Command History

Encl: (1) Commanding Officer's Biography  
(2) Riverine Squadron ONE's Alpha Roster

1. Per reference (a), the following summarizes Riverine Squadron ONE (RIVRON ONE) activities during calendar year 2009. Enclosures (1) and (2) are included as additional information.

a. Command Composition and Organization

(1) Command Mission

(a) Riverine Squadron ONE's primary mission is to conduct Shaping and Stability Operations, to provide Maritime Security, train coalition partners in riverine operations, conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and limited combined operations. Riverine operations seek to project power ashore by exploiting the riverine space. The riverine force will integrate and employ various rates in the Navy, multiple joint service surface and air assets and operate a small craft capable of high speed maneuvering and delivering vast amounts of firepower. The Navy Riverine Force will conduct 24/7 operations in all weather to not only protect legitimate commerce and transit, but protect the lines of communication in the riverine environment.

(2) Command short title: RIVRON ONE.

(3) UIC: 40541.

(4) Organizational Structure

(a) Immediate Superior in Command: Riverine Group ONE (RIVGRU ONE), JEB Little Creek, VA.

(b) Detachments under RIVRON ONE

1. Riverine Detachment ONE.
2. Riverine Detachment TWO.
3. Riverine Detachment THREE.

(5) Commanding Officer: 01JAN09 - 04DEC09 CDR Gary Leigh, USN; 04DEC09 - PRESENT CDR Craig Hill, USN.

(6) Executive Officer: 01JAN09 - 31DEC09 LCDR Matthew Andrews, USN.

(7) Department Heads

(a) Admin Officer: 01JAN09 - 10APR09 YNC (b) (6)  
(b) (6) USN; 10APR09 - 31DEC09 YNC (b) (6)

(b) (6) (b) Operations Officer: 01JAN09 - 31DEC09 LCDR (b) (6)  
(b) (6) USN.

1. Detachment ONE Officer in Charge - 01JAN09-15APR09 LT Eric Debolt; 15APR09 - 31DEC09 LT Christopher Garcia.

2. Detachment TWO Officer in Charge - 01JAN09-21SEP09 LT Eric Hedval; 21SEP09 - 31DEC09 LT Gregory Roberts.

3. Detachment THREE Officer in Charge - LT Terence Nicholas.

(c) Maintenance Officer: 01JAN09-15APR09 LT (b) (6), USN; 15APR09 - 31DEC09 CMCS (b) (6)

(d) Supply Officer: 01JAN09 - 31DEC09 LT (b) (6)  
(b) (6)

(e) Weapons Officer: 01JAN09 - 31DEC09 LCDR (b) (6)  
(b) (6) USN.

(f) Medical Officer: 01JAN09 - 31DEC09 HMCS (FMF, EXWS) (b) (6)

(g) Information Systems Officer: 01JAN09 - 31DEC09 CWO3 (b) (6) USN.

(h) Training Officer: 01JAN09 - 31DEC09 LCDR (b) (6)  
(b) (6) USN.

(i) Intelligence Officer: 01JAN09 - 31DEC09 LT (b) (6)  
(b) (6) USN.

(8) Permanent Duty Station: 2340 Amphibious Drive,  
Virginia Beach, VA 23459-2843 (Bldg 2012/2009).

(9) Personnel Assigned

(a) Active Duty Military: 233.

(10) Point of Contact:

(a) LCDR (b) (6)  
Operations Officer

(b) (6)

## 2. Chronology

a. January 2009: Deployment Continues In Support Of Operation Iraqi Freedom; Detachments continue presence patrols and shoreline assessment; Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) patrols conducted, atmospheric data gathered and Riverine Launch Site (RLS) recons conducted In Vicinity Of Lake Thar Thar; Conducted convoys with Maritime Training Team (MTT) In Support Of initial Key Leader Engagement (KLE) with Iraqi River Police (IRP); Detachments refined convoy capabilities and communication proficiency; Conducted waterborne security operations with Iraqi Inland Waterborne Security (IWS) forces and coalition forces; Provided security assistance to IWS; Continued training of Iraqi Inland Waterborne Security forces.

b. February 2009: Deployment Continues In Support Of Operation Iraqi Freedom; Conducted patrols In Support Of IWS and provided support in organizing Lake Thar Thar IRP station; Conducted visual signals training with IRP; Conducted cache sweeps to support 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion/9<sup>th</sup> Marines' request for assistance; Ran navigation missions to assess future RLS and feasibility of combined patrols; Night operations with IWS to train their night visual training skills; Convoy conducted to publicize positive coalition networks; Assisted IWS officials with identification, prioritization and distribution of humanitarian and civic assistance; Convoy conducted in response to cache sighting with cache recovered; Conducted navigational operations In Support Of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) mission in Riverine operational areas; Conducted security patrols to Qarmat Al Majarra Dam and Al Angur peninsula.

c. March 2009; Deployment Continues In Support Of Operation Iraqi Freedom; Convoy conducted for viable RLS and recon of Lake Thar Thar; Tactical convoy for KLE with Officer-In-Charge (OIC) of Lake Thar Thar IRP station; Conducted training with IWS at Lake Thar Thar In Care Of boat engine fundamentals and insertions and extractions.

d. April 2009; Deployment Continues In Support Of Operation Iraqi Freedom; Conducted patrols In Support Of Human Terrain Analysis Team (HTAT) mission; Training conducted with IWS at Lake Thar Thar; Provided site security In Support Of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion TWENTY FOUR boat ramp construction project; Continued security cooperation with IWS and MTT with convoy and security of engine turnover to Iraqi Army; Conducted combined US/IRP patrols on Euphrates River; Conducted tactical convoy In Support Of IRP receipt of fiberglass boats from contractors; Begin packout of all excess equipment; Begin turnover with Riverine Squadron TWO personnel.

e. May 2009; Completion of all equipment packout; Completed turnover with Riverine Squadron TWO personnel and Transfer of Authority (TOA); Sailors return to JEB Little Creek.

f. June 2009; Basic Training Phase; Detachment ONE and Headquarters CAT III Requalification; Stand Down.

g. July 2009; Basic Training Phase; Stand up of Detachment ONE; CAT III Small Arms Range Safety Officer (RSO) Qual; Detachment ONE Riverine Combative Program; Detachment ONE Individual Training; Riverine Combat Skills (RCS) Course; Joint Tactical Air Controller (JTAC) P-7 Training; Detachment ONE Tactical Communications Course for Detachment ONE and Headquarters; Physical Readiness Test and Second Class Swim Test Screening; Detachment ONE Silver Fox Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Intermediate JTAC Training.

h. August 2009; Advanced Unit Level Training; Detachment ONE Mission Planning; Detachment ONE Boat Coxswain Training; Command Inspection; JTAC UAV Silver Fox Training; JTAC Training; Detachment ONE Individual Training; Detachment ONE Advanced Unit Level Ground Training; Detachment ONE Advanced Unit Level Training Maritime; Riverine Combat Crewman (RCC) Course; Riverine Unit Level Leaders (RULL) Course; Riverine Security Team (RST) Course; JTAC P-7 Training; Silver Fox UAV JTAC Training; Detachment ONE Combat Water Survival Training.

i. September 2009; Advanced Unit Level Training; Detachment ONE Riverine Combatives Program; Detachment ONE and Headquarters

Counter Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and Language Recognition Training; Silver Fox UAV Basic and Intermediate JTAC Training; Riverine Command Boat Course; RCC Course; RULL Course; RST Course; CAT III Crew Served Weapons (CSW) RSO Qualification; Mission Planning; Silver Fox UAV JTAC Training.

j. October 2009; Advanced Unit Level Training; Unit Level Training Assessment; Detachment ONE CAT IV Advanced Military Operations Urban Terrain (AMOUT) RSO Qualification; Detachment ONE RSO Convoy Qualification; Detachment ONE CAT IV RSO Battle Drill Qualification; Detachment ONE Combatant Crewman RSO Battle Drill Qualification; Detachment ONE CAT III Small Arms Shoot; Detachment ONE CAT III CSW Shoot; Detachment TWO Tactical Communications Training; Detachment TWO CAT III CSW Shoot; Detachment TWO CAT III Small Arms Shoot; Detachment TWO Individual Training; RCS Course; Riverine Command Boat Course; Command Training Team Certification.

k. November 2009; Unit Level Training Assessment; Detachment ONE Advanced Unit Level AMOUT Training; Detachment ONE Combatant Crewman Advanced Maritime Battle Drills; Detachment ONE RST and Combatant Crewman Advanced Convoy Training; Detachment ONE RST Battle Drills; Detachment ONE Combatant Crewman Advanced Maritime Battle Drills; Detachment ONE RST and Combatant Crewman Advanced Interoperability Training; Detachment TWO Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (C4I) Training; Detachment TWO Advanced Unit Level Ground Training; Detachment TWO Combatant Crewman Advanced Unit Level Maritime Training; Detachment TWO Individual Training; Detachment TWO RST Advanced AMOUT Training; Detachment TWO Combatant Crewman Advanced Unit Level Maritime Training; Detachment TWO Advanced Unit Level Training.

l. December 2009; Basic Training Phase; Headquarters and Detachment THREE Tactical Communications Course; Detachment ONE ULTRA/FEP; Detachment TWO RST Advanced Unit Level AMOUT Training; Detachment TWO RST and Combatant Crewman Advanced Convoy Battle Drills; Detachment TWO Combatant Crewman Advanced Maritime Battle Drills; Detachment TWO Advanced Unit Level Training; RCC Course; RULL Course; RST Course; Change of Command.

3. Narrative. This year RIVRON ONE continued to excel as a maritime force-multiplier by conducting Riverine Operations in support of Fleet-level exercises and the Global War on Terror. RIVRON ONE demonstrated the ability to integrate Riverine forces into Naval exercises, Phase IV-V of major ground combat (Stabilize and Enable Civil Authority), counter-insurgency and irregular warfare operations.

a. January 2009: Deployed; The year began with RIVRON ONE continuing its deployment. We conducted numerous presence patrols and continued our work with the IRP. Detachments conducted joint operations with the IRP in order to expand the relationship with the regional Iraqi Police. Training was conducted with the support of the MTT in order to allow the IRP to operate without coalition support.

b. February 2009: Deployed; As we moved into the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of the year, the command continued to train the IRP to support their ability to be self-sufficient from coalition oversight. Detachment operations with IRP forces worked to support the development of physical, economical and logistic maritime support within their own nation.

c. March 2009: Deployed; This month saw RIVRON ONE continuing its training with the MTT of the IRP.

d. April 2009: Deployed; Security cooperation operations continue with IRP forces. RIVRON ONE was able to support security for Naval Mobile Construction Battalion TWENTY FOUR's boat ramp construction project to allow the IRP forces to better utilize their position at Lake Thar Thar. RIVRON ONE was able to provide security and facilitate the transfer of fiberglass boats to the IRP forces. RIVRON ONE began preparations for equipment turnover to RIVRON TWO, as preparing for redeployment.

e. May 2009: Deployed; Main body departed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May from IRAQ via Kuwait. Transfer of authority (TOA) is completed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. RIVRON TWO assumed the watch.

f. June 2009: Post-deployment Stand Down; Conducted CAT II Requalification for personnel.

g. July 2009: Basic Training Phase; Unit Level Training phase commenced at Fort Pickett, VA.

h. August 2009: Unit level training continues to ramp up, moving into Advanced Unit Level Training for Detachments. Personnel began (7 weeks) RCC, (6 weeks) RULL and (5 weeks) RST courses at Camp Lejeune, NC. JTACS went to Fallon, NV for intermediate training, including coordination training with P-7 aircraft.

i. September 2009: Advanced Unit Level Training continues. Detachments also began to cycle through the Riverine Combatives Program. JTACS also attended intermediate training for Silver Fox UAV.

j. October 2009: Advanced Unit Level Training continues. Personnel attended 5 weeks of RCS course at Camp Lejeune, NC. Detachments went to Fort Pickett, VA for CAT III and IV shoots, as well as Battle Drills and RSO qualifications.

k. November 2009: Advanced Unit Level Training continues. RIVRON ONE stood down for a week to observe Thanksgiving. Detachments went to Fort A.P. Hill, VA for Advanced Unit Level Training in Interoperability, RST, convoy and battle drills.

l. December 2009: Advanced Unit Level Training continues. RIVRON ONE ended the year running strong and successfully completing the Advanced Unit Level Training phase of training. Detachments went to Fort Pickett, VA and Fort A.P. Hill, VA for Advanced Convoy, AMOUT, and Battle Drill training. Detachment ONE also completed their Unit Level Training and Readiness Assessment/Final Evaluation Problem at Fort A.P. Hill. This month also marked the completion of RCS, RULL and RST courses. On 04 December at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, Virginia, CDR Craig Hill relieved CDR Gary Leigh as the Commanding Officer of Riverine Squadron ONE.



C. A. HILL

**COMMANDER GARY LEIGH**  
**COMMANDING OFFICER RIVERINE SQUADRON ONE**



Commander Leigh was born in (b) (6) and enlisted in the Navy in October 1979. Following various Aviation Antisubmarine Warfare (ASW) and Aircrew training, he served at Patrol Squadron 49 (VP-49), NAS Jacksonville, in USS SARATOGA (CV 60), and at Antisubmarine Warfare Operations Center, NAS Bermuda. While enlisted, CDR Leigh advanced to First Class Petty Officer and qualified as a Naval Aircrewman and Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS). He was the 1988 NAS Bermuda and Patrol Wing Atlantic Force Sailor of the Year. In 1989 he was selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program.

CDR Leigh attended the Naval Science Institute in Newport, RI and the University of South Carolina where he earned his Bachelor's degree. He was commissioned as an Ensign in December 1991 and reported to Surface Warfare Officers School in Newport, RI. At sea, CDR Leigh served in USS ARTHUR W RADFORD (DD 968) as CICO and MPA. His Department Head sea tour was in USS CARNEY (DDG 64) as Weapons Officer and Combat Systems Officer. His sea experience includes deployments to the Mediterranean Sea, Persian Gulf, Caribbean, Black Sea, and Indian Ocean. Ashore, CDR Leigh was an instructor at the Surface Warfare Officers School, and the Combat Systems Department Head at Afloat Training Group Mayport. He reported in 2003 to the Joint Services Command & Staff College in Shrivenham, England as an Exchange Officer, where he earned his Masters degree and JPME-1 qualification. CDR Leigh reported to USS VICKSBURG (CG 69) as Executive Officer on-station in the Northern Arabian Gulf in November, 2004. Upon completion of his tour in VICKSBURG in October 2006, he reported to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, DEEP BLUE. He assumed Command of Riverine Squadron ONE in April, 2008.

He is authorized to wear the following decorations: The Bronze Star, The Meritorious Service Medal, The Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (with four Gold Stars), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (with three Gold Stars), Navy Unit Commendation (with bronze star), Coast Guard Unit Commendation, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Battle Efficiency Ribbon (with "E" wreath device), Navy Good Conduct Medal (with bronze star), Navy Expeditionary Medal (with bronze star), National Defense Service Ribbon (with bronze star), South West Asia Campaign Medal (with bronze star), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Defense Expeditionary Medal, Sea Service Ribbon (with silver star), Overseas Service Ribbon (with three bronze stars), Rifle Marksmanship (Expert) and Pistol Marksmanship (Sharpshooter).

Commander Leigh is married to the former (b) (6) They have four children; (b) (6)

[COR 2009]



**COMMANDER CRAIG A. HILL**  
**COMMANDING OFFICER RIVERINE SQUADRON ONE**



A native of (b) (6) Commander Hill graduated from Old Dominion University in 1993 and earned his commission through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit, Hampton Roads.

As a division officer, CDR Hill served as Electrical Officer and Combat Information Center Officer in USS BRISCOE (DD 977) and Navigator in USS SIMPSON (FFG 56). During these tours, he completed deployments to both Middle East Forces and Standing Naval Forces Mediterranean.

After graduating from the Naval Postgraduate School with a Master of Science in Systems Engineering, CDR Hill returned to sea, serving as Operations Officer in USS STUMP (DD 978) and USS CAPE ST. GEORGE (CG 71). While serving in CAPE ST. GEORGE, the ship participated in combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in both the European and Central Command theaters.

Ashore, he served as Requirements Officer for the ZUMWALT-Class Destroyer program in the Surface Warfare Directorate of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

Returning to sea, CDR Hill served as Executive Officer in USS ROSS (DDG 71), deploying to the Central Command theater as part of NASSAU Expeditionary Strike Group. In September 2008, he assumed duties as Chief Staff Officer, Destroyer Squadron TWO SIX.

CDR Hill has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards) and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards) in addition to numerous campaign and unit awards.

CDR Hill is married to the former (b) (6). They have three children:  
(b) (6)

[COR 2009]